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REPORT

COUNTRY : East Germany

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at the Pirna (Sonnenstein) Installation

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INTRODUCTION

1. The installation is situated outside Pirna proper on heights along the Bad Schandauer Strasse. These heights are known as Sonnenstein. This area was formerly used as a sanitarium for the mentally ill. After the war it was used as a reception camp for refugees (from the Sudetenland). Next, it was used as quarters for the Vopos. It was finally taken over by the Building Administration (Gebäudeverwaltung). There was also a Materials Office (Materialamt) in this area.

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When the aircraft ministry took over this area, it retained these two titles as cover names.

2. On 16 June 1952, only a few of the buildings at Pirna were in use. Most of the buildings were either empty or being reconstructed. At this time House 15 had not yet been equipped as the central archives, as described in Point 15 below [see page 5]. in House

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15 [] few [] engineers [] had [] been there only a short time. Gradually, until the end of September, more and more people arrived. Among these were mechanics, fitters, office help, draftsmen, engineers, etc. At the end of September, [] moved from House 15 to House 14 (Point 14 below) and House 15 was rebuilt at this time into the present central archives.

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3. The initial work at Pirna was concerned with reworking some Soviet design drawings of two devices. These were ostensibly for use as attractions in fairs, but the general feeling was that they were some type of pilot training device. The drawings were very poorly done (both in drawing and design) and the Germans had to re-do them. The next work was the reconstruction of the old Hirth-500 sport plane engine. This work was stopped in October or November of 1952 when hundreds of Soviet drawings arrived at Pirna. These were to be the basis for the East German production of a sport and a turbo-jet plane. This work in turn ceased when all aircraft production was halted following the June 17 uprisings in East Germany. In July 1953 [] all the drawings were being assembled, checked and packed for shipment (supposedly back to the USSR).

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GENERAL PHYSICAL FEATURES OF THE INSTALLATION

4. Almost all of the buildings were made of stone and brick and had gabled slate roofs. They were all constructed in the same block style. Each house had a fire alarm in the corridor by the entrance. This was a "break glass, push button" type, which [] was connected to the Pirna fire alarm system. There were fire extinguishers in each house. The installation had a telephone exchange, [] There was a public address system with an outlet in each house; it was controlled from House 24 (Point 24). All power lines and telephone cables were underground. All the buildings within the surrounding wall were heated from the hot water heating plant located in the boiler house (Point 23).

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AREA DESCRIPTION

5. [] a sketch of the area at Sonnenstein [See page 11/ [] indicated the following points.

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Point 11 Guest House (House 1)

This building was three stories high (10 meters), 20 meters long, 8 meters wide and covered with vines. It was used as a guest house for visiting Germans and Soviets; 25-30 German and 7-8 Soviet section leaders were also billeted here.

Point 22 Electric Shops

This building was 20 meters long, 10 meters wide and 10 meters high. The workshops were not completely equipped, although it was planned that

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they later would be. There was a battery charger and basic equipment for electric motor repair (soldering irons, files, etc.), but nothing elaborate.

Point 3 Materials Testing Institute

This was a two-story building (12 meters high, 20 meters long and 10 meters wide). It had a completely equipped chemical laboratory. There was also a physical laboratory which [] was ready to be equipped. [] since the Sonnenstein installation did not provide too much work for this institute, it was to be subordinated to the Technical College of Dresden (Technische Hochschule Dresden).

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Point 4 Workshop

This building was 15 meters long, 8 meters wide and 10 meters high. [] it was a metal-working shop, since all such work around the installation was carried on from this place.

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Point 5 Kitchen and Dining Room (House 5)

This was a one-story, horseshoe-shaped building which housed the kitchen, a kitchen office, dining room, a doctor's office, a dentist's office, a nurse's office, and a cultural room. The doctor and the dentist (both from Pirna) visited the installation regularly. [] the dining room, which had a segregated section for the intelligentsia. A workman could eat a meal for 65 pfennigs, while the intelligentsia could eat (a better meal) for 1.20 DM.

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Point 6 Main Storeroom (House 6)

This building was 15 meters long, 8 meters wide and 12 meters high. All materials which arrived at the installation were unpacked here. The materials, upon being unpacked, were sent to their respective destinations or stored here. Packing material was also stored at this place.

Point 7 Carpentry Shop (House 7)

This two-story building was 15 meters long, 8 meters wide and 12 meters high. It contained a carpentry shop and some offices.

Point 8 House 8

This house, 15 x 8 x 12 meters, had several offices;

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Point 9 Garages

This was a one-story series of garages (15 in all). The row was 100 meters long, 5 meters wide and 4 meters high. At the end of the garages, there was an office, a parts room, a day room for the drivers, and a workshop. At the other end of the garages (they were arranged in a row, one after the other) was the automobile wash room.

Point 10 House 10

This building was 15 meters long, 8 meters wide and 12 meters high. It contained the Norms Section and the Statistics Section and several rooms which were used to give the apprentices lessons. This building contained only office space. The Norms Section was called upon for copies of the DIN (Deutsche Industrie Normen) norms, which were at that time incomplete. This section had to recopy, reproduce and often recalculate some of the information for the DIN norms.

Point 11 Material Procurement (House 11)

This was a single-story, H-shaped building, 20 meters long, 6 meters wide (10 meters in the center section), and 6 meters high. Several of the rooms had no corners, these being rounded. (These rooms had probably been special rooms for mentally ill people.) This building contained the offices of the Material Procurement Section and rooms with drafting equipment.

Point 12 Technical Directorate

The technical directorate was housed in this L-shaped building which was 12 meters long, 8 meters wide and 5 meters high. Atop the foot of the L, there was a second story which housed the technical directorate staff. In the main body of the building there were people who were translating and transcribing the Ost and Gost Norms (Soviet Standard Norms) into German.

Point 13 Blueprint and Photo Shop (House 13)

This two-story building was 10 meters long, 6 meters wide and 8 meters high. It contained a complete photographic laboratory.

Point 14 House 14

House 14 was 80 meters long, 8 meters wide and 12 meters high (two stories). The design work on the Hirth-500 was done here until the Soviet data arrived. The only work done in this building after this was the translation of the data into German. The only type of drawings translated were the drawings of the turbo-jet engine.

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Point 15 Central Archives (House 15)

The central archives building was 60 meters long, 8 meters wide, and 10 meters high (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ stories). It was surrounded by a stone wall and all windows were barred. All the classified materials were kept in this building. [See paragraph 8, page 8].

Point 16 Office Building

This building was 80 meters long, 10 meters wide and 12 meters high. It contained offices where the translations and reworking of the Soviet drawings of the tools which were to be used in the construction of the turbo-jet engine were done.

Points 17 and 18 Wooden Shacks

These two wooden shacks (6 x 3 x 3 meters) housed the tools and some building materials which were used by the construction workers.

Point 19 Brick House

A small (10 x 4 x 5 meters) brick house which was used at first as a washroom for the construction workers. [redacted] there was a small cemetery around this building. It was leveled over a short while later, all headstones and other traces identifying it as a cemetery being removed. The house was not used at all later, and it remained empty [redacted]

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Point 20 Brick House

This building was 6 meters long, 4 meters wide and 5 meters high and had formerly been a mortuary. A furnace and a boiler were also still there. (People in Pirna said that bodies had been cremated there during the war.) This building was prepared (concrete foundations in the floor, new partitions, etc.) as a test stand for the Hirth engine, but when these plans were discontinued, the building was left as it was.

Point 21 Church

A large and pretty stone church (Catholic) which is now used as a storeroom for office furniture. [redacted]

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Point 22 Brick Building

A small brick building (6 x 4 x 4 meters) which was used as a checkroom. Briefcases, packages, etc. were not allowed to be carried into the building. A woman was employed to maintain this checkroom.

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Point 23 Boiler House

A new boiler was recently installed here. It was coal driven and provided hot water heat for all the buildings at Sonnenstein. [redacted]

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Point 24 Administration Building

The administration building was 17 meters long, 8 meters wide and 20 meters high (four stories) and contained the personnel department for Sonnenstein, social welfare offices, finance department, and the office supplies storeroom. There was also a teletype machine located in this building [redacted]. The teletype belonged to the DDR net and was served through the Pirna post office.

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Point 25 Bicycle Shack

This was a small wooden shack for motorcycles and bicycles.

Point 26 Main Guard Shack and Grocery Store

A wooden shack 12 meters long, 4 meters wide and 3 meters (and 6 meters) high. It forms part of the wall which surrounds the area and is next to Entrance A. The portion of the shack next to Entrance A was used as a dayroom for the guards and was occupied 24 hours a day. In the center of this shack, there was a visitor's check-in-point. In the portion of the shack opposite the guard's dayroom, there was a small grocery store. Above the grocery store, the guards had another room, [redacted]

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Points 27, Living Quarters

28,29,30.

37,38 and

39

These were all one and two family brick houses which housed the workers from the installation. These houses were owned by the Sonnenstein installation.

Point 31 Hall

This was a newly built concrete and brick hall (3 x 20 x 3 meters). [redacted]

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[redacted] it was a workshop of some kind.

Point 32 Hall

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This was a newly built concrete and brick hall (18 x 120 x 7 meters). It was the hall in which [redacted] a turbo-jet and a sport plane. The planes were brought there for demonstration purposes. Later the hall was partitioned into two parts for some reason [redacted]

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Point 33 Hall

This was a newly built concrete and brick hall (6 x 60 x 7 meters) which was to be a machine shop. It was almost empty, although several lathes were already there.

Point 34 Small Parts Storeroom

This was a small (3 x 10 x 3 meters) wooden shack which was used as a small parts storeroom (screws, nuts, bolts, etc.). There was also an office which issued these parts.

Point 35 Guard House

This was a small brick building (5 x 5 x 4 meters), used by the guards of Entrance B as a dayroom during their tours of duty and was occupied 24 hours a day. There were no accommodations for sleeping there. Personal items (see Point 22) were also checked at this point.

Point 36 Storeroom

This building was the same as Point 35 above and had a common roof with Point 35, thus providing a covered driveway between the two structures. It was a storeroom for photographic materials which were needed by the Blueprint and Photo Shop (Point 13).

Points 40 Watch Towers
and 41

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These are the only two watch towers [redacted] except for the two towers on the wall around House 15 [see paragraph 8, page 8]. They were made of wood and were five meters above the ground.

Point 42 Brick Wall

This wall (shown with a double line on the sketch) was three meters high and made of brick. Along the top of the wall were iron rods, pointed outwards, from which a triple strand of barbed-wire was strung. The wall surrounded the entire installation with the exception of an iron grill fence which ran between points 14 and 24. A sharply declining slope ran down behind the iron fence. This slope was illuminated from time to time by searchlights (in irregular sweeps).

SECURITY MEASURES
Physical Security

6. The installation was surrounded by a brick wall (Point 42) and an iron grill fence (running between Points 14 and 24). The watch towers (Points 40 and 41) were built inside the wall and were accessible by wooden ladders. Every 50 meters along the wall, there were

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poles with lamps mounted on them. The lamps had shades which directed the light along their corresponding lengths of wall. The buildings inside the walls also had lights mounted on them, so that there were no dark places inside the enclosure.

7. The plant had three entrances, A, B and C. A was the main entrance. The building next to this entrance (Point 26) was the main guard shack. Entrance A was open 24 hours a day. Entrance B was a secondary entrance. It was closed during the nights, but could be opened by the guard there on demand. Although people did not normally pass through this entrance during the night, it was guarded (Point 35) day and night. Entrance C was open during the day and was used only by the construction workers. During the night it was closed. At entrances A and B there was a small box with a lever. Each person leaving through these entrances had to pull this lever. Every fifth or sixth time, a glass partition would light up. It had the word "check" written on it. When this happened, the person who had pulled the lever had to go inside the corresponding guard shack for a check. The person was then checked to see if he was carrying anything suspicious (metal, tools, papers, etc). [redacted] the reason [redacted] not allowed to use Entrance C was because there were no such provisions for spot checks at this entrance. 50X1-HUM 50X1-HUM
8. House 15 (Point 15) was surrounded by a limestone wall. Atop the wall, there was highly electrified barbed-wire. There were watch towers on diagonal corners of the wall and each tower had a searchlight. This wall was illuminated in the same manner as the exterior wall. Surrounding the wall was a strip of sand (2 1/2 - 3 meters wide). This strip was raked every day so that if anyone trespassed, his footsteps could be easily seen. There was only one entrance through the wall. This entrance had two sections, one for vehicles and one for personnel. In the court, between the wall and House 15, there was a small stone house which housed the guards (10-12 men) and three dogs. All windows of House 15 were barred with iron bars (10 cm. in diameter). There were no windows in the cellar, only small lightshafts which were also barred. All heavy safes were in the cellar. All the rooms, as well as the safes, had to be sealed. Nothing could be taken from the building without written permission. Coats and other garments had to be checked at the cloakroom which was located near the entrance. All scrap paper had to be given to the guards for burning (in all the houses).

Guards

9. The entire installation was guarded by uniformed Vopos. They patrolled the area and occupied the towers which were placed along the walls. Each of the towers was always occupied by at least one guard. [redacted] several guards patrolled outside the walls. Each entrance had at least two guards. Within the walls, there were many guards (at least 8) walking posts. During working hours, each house had one guard by its entrance whose duty it was to check passes. After [redacted] left the area in the evenings, dogs patrolled with the guards. [redacted] the guards had twelve- to fourteen-hour shifts, during which time they would have one post for two hours, another for two hours, then two hours standby, etc. [redacted] the time spent on one post never exceeded two hours. 50X1-HUM 50X1-HUM 50X1-HUM 50X1-HUM

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10. The area around House 15 was more strictly guarded. There were two guards who walked posts (separately) around the sand strip which ran outside the wall (of House 15). The two towers on the wall were also each occupied by one guard. Inside the entrance, another guard was stationed (in addition to the one before the entrance). The door was opened by an electric lock activated by the guard inside the entrance. Still another guard was stationed inside the entrance whose duty it was to see that all excess clothing was checked. On each floor, at the entrance to that floor, a guard was stationed. During the evenings, guards circulated within the building.

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11. Each house had a doorman (usually a woman) whose task it was to register all persons who entered or left the building. He (or she) also issued the keys for the various rooms, as the people assigned to those rooms arrived. In the mornings, the doorman reported to the main guard shack (Point 26) where he checked out a box containing the above-mentioned keys. These boxes were locked in safes provided for that purpose in the main guard shack. In the evenings, the doorman had to wait until the last person had returned his room key and the "lock-up" man (see paragraph 12 below) had secured all the rooms before he in turn could check his box of keys back into the main guard shack.

12. Each house had a "lock-up" man whose duty it was to see that all the rooms in his building were secured each night. These men were 100 per cent SED Party men and were especially chosen for this job. During the working day, when any drawings were needed from the central archives (House 15), the engineer concerned filed his request with this person. The "lock-up" man then went to House 15 and checked out the requested item. The material was either sealed in a briefcase, or carried in the open by the "lock-up" man in the company of one or two Vopos. In the evenings after all the workers had gone, the "lock-up" man would try all the doors to see if they were locked. If they were, he would seal them. The seal was a continuous length of string which was pressed into two plates, one on the door itself, the other on the door jamb. The sealing material was then pressed over the string and a seal pressed onto the sealing material. Upon reporting for work the next morning, the person assigned to a room had to first check this seal before breaking it and unlocking his door. If the seal had been disturbed, the person had to notify the "lock-up" man immediately and wait for his disposition. On two occasions, the seal had been tampered with. Both times, however, the "lock-up" man gave permission to open

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Passes

13. In order to enter the installation, a plant identification was needed. It was a small (8 x 5 cm.) cardboard card with the bearer's photograph and several signatures. It was folded vertically in half and was blue-green in color. The pass was

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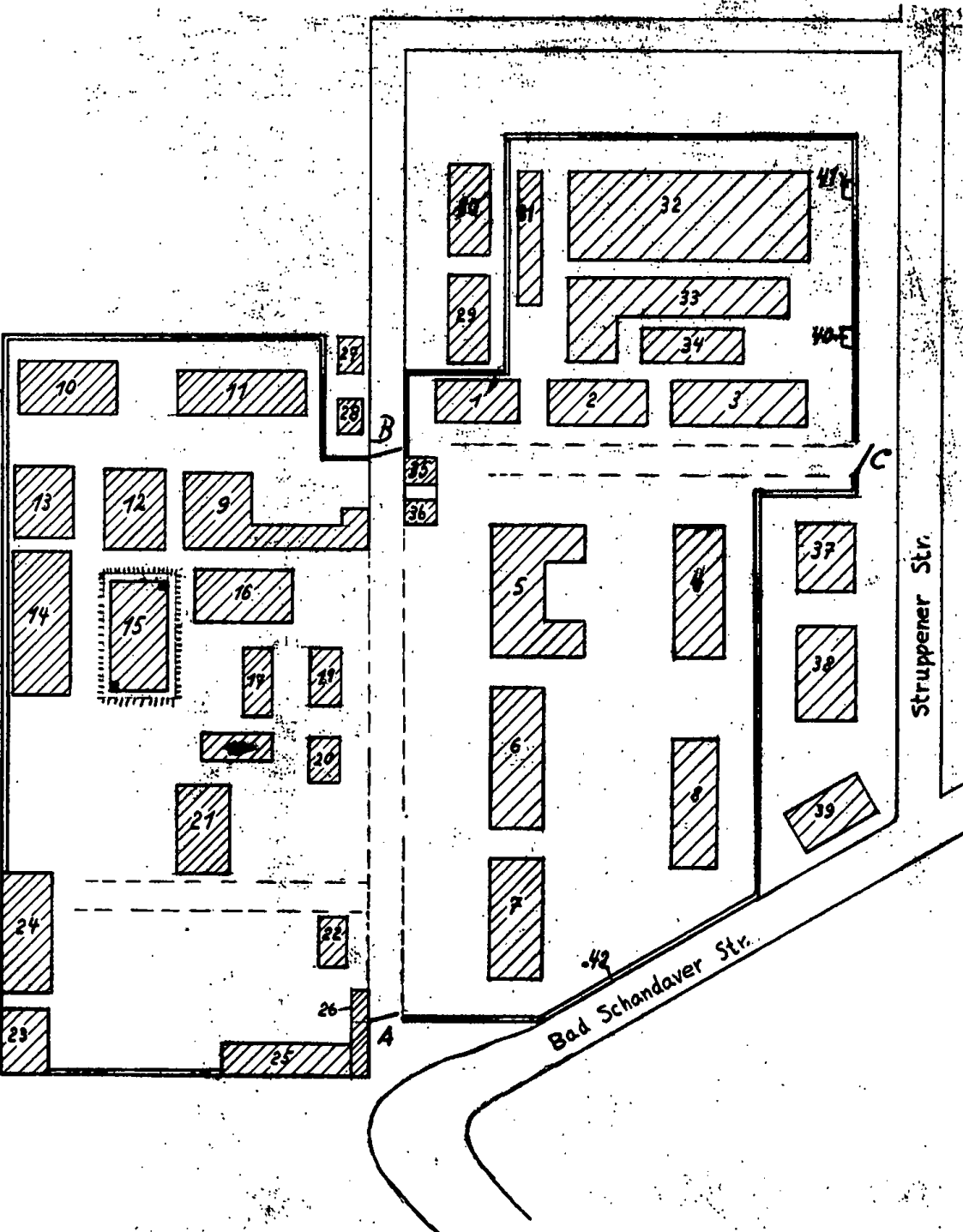
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valid for one month and had to be renewed each month. There were spaces on the back of the pass for these extensions. In order to enter the single buildings within the compound, a small, dark red card (same size as the plant card) was necessary. This also had the bearer's photograph and was valid only when presented with the plant identification. The numbers of the buildings to which access was permitted were stamped on the back of this card.

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AREA DESCRIPTION OF PIRNA (SONNENSTEIN)

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